

LadyLike

THE TASTEFUL MAGAZINE FOR CROSSDRESSERS WITH CLASS

#25

\$10

Profile:
Dee Gregory

The Problem...
the Laura Sykes
saga continues

TVideo Reviews

plus... lots of
photos of you!



LadyLike



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LadyLike

THE TASTEFUL MAGAZINE FOR CROSSOVERS WITH CLASS

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**On the cover: Dee Gregory,
photo by Glamour Shots**

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CDS

Editor in Chief
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Dee Gregory



LadyLike Profile

NAME: Dee Gregory
AGE: 33
PROFESSION: Computer Systems Support
RESIDENCE: Florida
HEIGHT: 6' 2"
WEIGHT: 195#
MEASUREMENTS: 41-32-41, Sz: 14 – 20
SHOE SIZE: 12/13
FAVORITE THINGS
SHOE STYLE: Pumps
PERFUME: Lauren
MOVIE: *Star Trek: Generations*/Science Fiction
STYLES: Flirtatious, Sexy, Glamorous, Romantic, and costumes
MUSIC: Jazz, New Wave, New Age, Rock
PLACE: On stage performing, traveling in Great Britain
TURN-ONS: "Seamless" illusions, performing to a receptive audience, volleyball, open minded friends
TURN-OFFS: Closed/narrow minds, religious zealots, "hate" groups.



Dee Gregory

LadyLike: I was fascinated that you mentioned the film *Homicidal*. That film made a profound impression on me as a kid, as did *Some Like It Hot*. What did *Homicidal* mean for you?

Dee Gregory: *Homicidal* was a ground breaking movie for me. I was shocked when the attractive murderess turned out to be a man. I was absolutely blown away; the ultimate disguise! No one would think to look for you if you appeared as the opposite sex. This was the 'spark' that lit the fire and refocused my interest to crossdressing. In my early years I had become fascinated with costumes and disguises; I was excited about being unrecognizable. I wanted to be able to go anywhere, even around friends and not have them recognize me.

LL: Do you think being the youngest of three boys had any influence on your crossdressing?

DG: As the youngest, I probably received more attention and was much closer to my mother. I recall being dressed as a girl at a very young age for some

occasion, presumably Hallowe'en. I wasn't really impressed with the picture taken at the time, when I rediscovered it several years later. I hinted to my mother at my interest in dressing up several times, but received very unreceptive responses. I understood that it was unacceptable behavior. The problem was that I didn't think it was wrong. With money from my paper route I began to collect items to support my "hobby." I had even ordered a \$7.99 honey-blond, shoulder length wig advertised in a magazine. When it came in, I was asked about it. I said, "Just wanted it," and nothing much more was said about it. (I was still very much "in the closet" in my own home. Except for my father, everyone in my family now knows, quietly tolerates, but doesn't really approve of this activity.)

I'm sure my mother knew someone was in her dresser drawers back then and probably suspected me. In my early teens, my oldest brother came home unexpectedly while I was fully "dressed." In a panic, I locked my parents bedroom door and, quietly as



learned basics about makeup, carriage, and style, increasing my confidence in drag.

Being in the military, I was naturally discrete. But, because I didn't consider my activity wrong, I wasn't worried about drastic implications. My closest buddies were aware, but they also knew I was straight and my 4.0 military/professional performance was an added bonus to the ship. One even came up with the phrase for the others: "More man than you'll ever be, and more woman than you'll ever get!" There were a few others on the boat who led alternative lifestyles, but being excellent sailors, no one worried about their personal lives.

During Halloween of 1983, I was attending a top secret school in Virginia Beach. I had brought my costume materials and won 2nd place dressed as a nurse in a costume contest held at a midnight movie (Rocky Horror). The next two Halloweens (still in the Navy) my costumes became sexier and bolder. I also began to "layer" my Hallowe'en costumes; being just a "girl" wasn't enough. I would dress in a girl's costume (nurse, southern bell, dominatrix) making recognition even more difficult for shipmates or acquaintances who I might have seen on Halloween.

LL: After the service, you expanded your ward-



possible, returned to my everyday clothes, put away mom's clothes, and tried to nonchalantly appear. I knew he was aware that something was up, but I hoped he didn't know. It was never discussed.

LL: Unlike most guys who went in the service, you didn't suppress your crossdressing. You actually went into it deeper. Wasn't that very risky?

DG: I guess that does appear strange. Actually the military gave me new tools: increased self confidence and the freedom to control my own life (at least within the military structure). During my first year of computer tech school, a buddy and his wife helped me dress up as a girl for Halloween. At 19, it was my first appearance in public in drag and I was very self conscious and extremely introverted, because I didn't have confidence in my drag persona. I was rather plain, and considered myself less than attractive.

After 2 years of schooling, I was assigned to a (nuclear) submarine refueling in the Charleston shipyards. A friend from my previous assignment introduced me to a nurse, living in the town, who was a long time friend of his. Her friendship, which continues today, provided me with an escape from the navy base and a haven for my unique interest. I

robe and found "Dee" or rather the many looks of Dee. It's not often we see someone who looks so good so many different ways. Did you have to work on that?

DG: My early fascination with costumes and disguises had continued into adulthood. Living on my own and having a well paying position as a computer service engineer gave me the freedom to explore even more of what it was like to be my other self. I didn't want to have just one look, I wanted to be different every time I dressed. Sexy blonde, demure brunette, vivacious redhead; what ever suited my mood at the time. Still being very discreet, I performed a few times on amateur night, but for the most part, limited public exposure to Halloween, when I would go "all out."

I don't really "work" on the different looks; I think it's more a matter of attitude. I don't usually change my makeup to match my wig, but I only buy a wig when I "connect" with the reflection in the mirror. Friends say I have a different personality for each wig. My wife even says until I put on a wig it's just me in makeup, but once the wig is on, I'm a different person. She had watched the steps of my "transformation;" makeup, corset, prosthesis, etc. I saved the wig until last and closed the bathroom door to



put it on. When "Dee" emerged she sucked in about half of the air in the room. I walked over to calm her and said, "It's still me underneath all of this stuff." She responded, "No, you're a different person, a very large woman is here now!" It's strange to hear that, because I really don't feel like a different person, I'm just creating a different "illusion."

LL: Let's talk about a difficult subject. I remember your letter cancelling your subscription.

DG: In late 1989, I fell in love with a wonderful woman who inspired and excited me through and through. She had been aware of my crossdressing, but did not, and could not, understand it. She expressed that she could not be serious about someone "who was into that." I was also feeling like I'd become a bit obsessive about crossdressing. I actually felt a real sense of liberation at the time and enjoyed being free from its grasp. I purged thoroughly: all photographs were destroyed; magazine subscriptions canceled; expensive wigs, corset, prosthesis, clothes, costumes given away or donated to charity.

It was rooted deep in my personality though. The interest and desire returned, but buried deep. I suppressed my returning desires because it would have been devastating to a relationship that was already





I kept "Dee" suppressed while we sold the house over the summer and I rented an apartment closer to work. In October, she returned overseas to continue her research and "Dee" re-emerged with new enthusiasm. Over Halloween weekend, I had four different costumes. I wore the Sheriff of Nottingham jacket as a "tainted" Maid Marian on Friday; Saturday, I was Counselor Troi from "Star Trek: The Next Generation;" and on Halloween day I was a very seductive, sexy witch, changing into a leopard print catsuit as a "sex kitten."

Luckily, my wife and I have remained friends and are planning a calm, supportive divorce. For Christmas, she even picked up a pair of exceptional Pierre Cardin rhinestone earrings that are great for the stage! She's also a professional photographer, and took some of the photos used in this profile.

LL: Have you made contact with any support groups in Florida? Some have SO support.

DG: I haven't contacted any support groups yet. Before my hiatus, I wasn't ready for the close personal exposure. Now that "Dee" has re-emerged, I will probably start looking into what we have locally, or within a reasonable distance. I think it would be a good experience. As for SO support

beginning to have problems.

I would now tell anyone about to "give it up" to give everything to a deeply trusted friend who can put it in storage and ask you after a few years if you want your items purged, left in storage, or you if you want to repossess them. As countless others have experienced before me, you may have costumes and outfits that may be nearly impossible to replace and you may later regret getting rid of them. And, if you are truly through, let your friend donate them to charity. Usually, such trusted friends will have a clearer perspective.

The marriage that started with great love and passion faded for many reasons, most entirely unrelated to my crossdressing interests. She travelled to Great Britain in February of '94 to do Master's research, where I joined her in March for a wonderfully enjoyable and romantic week in Scotland and England; it was to be our "last hurrah." I returned to the States while she continued her research there. We knew our relationship was over and I made the conscious decision to re-discover "Dee," who had disappeared 5 years earlier. My wife returned state-side a few weeks later and, knowing our marriage was over, we had a tearful night of "truth" and acknowledged the differing directions of our lives.



groups, I do think they can be helpful, but I don't think it would've made a difference in our personal situation, mainly because my crossdressing wasn't the root of our marital problems.

LL: After your separation, you started to explore a more public side of Dee and you've been bitten by the stage bug. What is it like being on stage in a show?

DG: Out of the closet, into the spotlight, huh? Well, not quite. I have always wanted to be an entertainer. Even in a small group, I was always more animated when I had an "audience." A couple of weeks of "Talent Night" and I was invited to perform on Saturday, a "Show Night." I was extremely flattered and excited, performing "Under the Boardwalk" and "Otto Titsling" from the "Beaches" soundtrack, "So Right, So Wrong" and "Adios" by Linda Ronstadt, and the title song from the James Bond movie "The Man with the Golden Gun."

Even though it's usually difficult to see the audience because of the spotlight, it's a BLAST to "connect" with the crowd and share the enjoyment of the performance. Backstage is fun too. It's amazing to see others, especially professionals, go through their transformations. Performing is wonderful, and also



a little scary, because I already have a small fan club developing. I now enjoy the responsibility of trying to make each new routine even more fun and entertaining. I even placed 2nd runner up in a local "pageant" that was held recently.

LL: What will you do now?

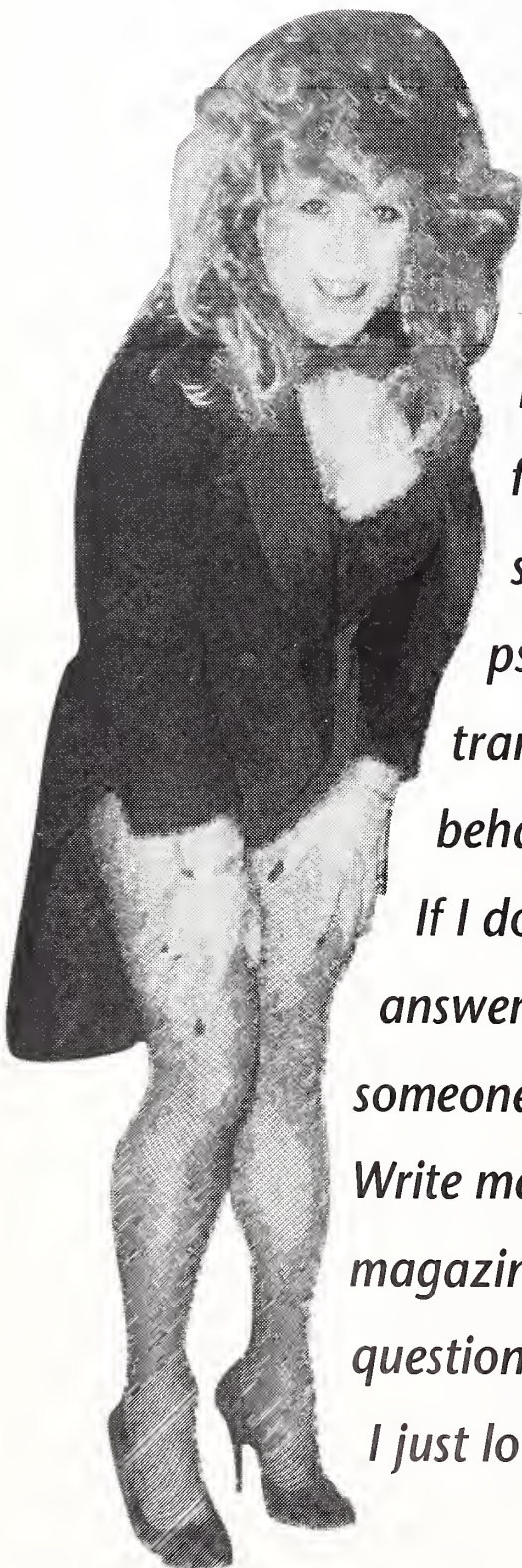
DG: Hmmm, where does Dee go from here? I want to continue entertaining, connect with a support group, attend one or more of the get-togethers, if my budget allows. I'd really love to become more involved in the TG community, but am a little unsure of how to start and how I will be able to travel and meet others. I'd also love to be able to make the transition from performing as a part-time experience to being my primary income. "If you do what you love and love what you do, you'll always be a success." I love entertaining!

As for future relationships; first of all, I'm going to be honest with myself about the importance of Dee in my life. Even more importantly, I'll be *very* honest about Dee in any relationship that begins to get serious. It wouldn't be fair to either party if I wasn't. I *am* optimistic about discovering the right woman to share my future life with, but for now my focus will be on healing myself and on Dee.

LL

Girl Talk

with JoAnn Roberts



*Girl Talk is
your forum.
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on any topic
is fair game,
from makeup
secrets to the
psychology of
transgendered
behavior.
If I don't have an
answer, I'll find
someone who does.
Write me care of this
magazine with your
questions.
I just love mail.*

*Dear JoAnn,
What are the legal aspects of crossdressing in various
states, especially Minnesota?
Georgette, Minn.*

Dear Georgette,
Well girl, you are in luck. You see, Minnesota is the only state in the Union (I believe) to provide Civil Rights protection specifically for transgendered people. Thanks to a movement called *It's Time Minnesota* and the efforts of several people like Jane Fee of the *City of Lakes Crossgender Community* (CLCC) transgendered people were included in a civil rights anti-discrimination bill passed last year. This was one of the best kept secrets of 1994.

As for other states, as far as I am aware, crossdressing, per se, is not illegal in any of the 50 states. However, that does not take into account county, township, parish, or municipal ordinances that might prohibit such activity. Regardless, if a police officer wants to give you a hard time about being crossdressed, there are public nuisance laws that can be used against you.

However, in my personal experience in larger metropolitan areas, the police are generally enlightened enough to leave transgendered people alone unless they break a specific law.

*Dear JoAnn,
I can't seem to totally get rid of my beard shadow,
especially around my upper lip. I use your lipstick trick,
followed by Dermablend with powder and then Cover
Girl foundation, also followed by powder. So, how come
my beard still shows through?
Marsha, Ohio*

Dear Marsha,
After reading the steps you take to hide your beard, my first thought was you are just imagining the shadow is still there. Dermablend was developed to cover really serious skin flaws and birthmarks like Port Wine stains. It is hard to imagine it isn't hiding your beard shadow.



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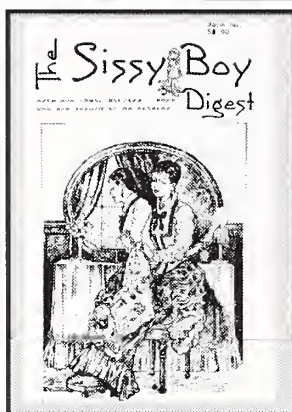
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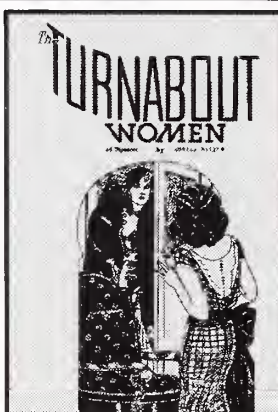
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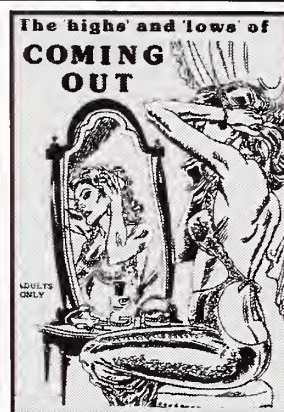
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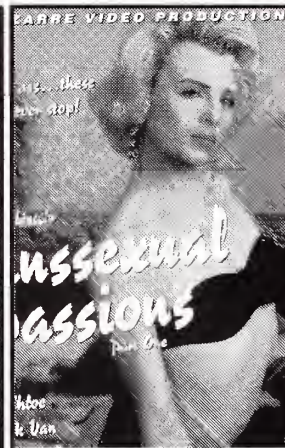


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Re: LL

But, on reflection, it may be that the Cover Girl foundation, plus your skin oils may be dissolving the Dermablend. You don't say if the shadow is always there or if it appears after some period of time.

I suggest you switch foundations. Look for one of the newer silicone based makeups, like Max Factor Active Protection makeup. You may not need the Dermablend. Try the Max Factor over the lipstick trick (see *Art & Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing*, Vol 1.) and see if that doesn't do the trick. Oh yes, try this at home before you go out.

Here's another thought. Take a flash photo of your face just after you apply makeup and then an hour or so later. If you really do have a shadow, it will show up clearly in the photo.

Dear JoAnn,

Apart from electrolysis, what is the best way to deal with body hair.

Beverly, Mich.

Dear Beverly,

The answer depends on your tolerance for pain. Next to electrolysis, waxing is the most effective form of hair removal for the body. If you do it yourself, it's relatively inexpensive and you can remove large swatches of hair at one time.

The downside is you just can't reach certain spots like hair on your back or shoulders and if you're not careful you can burn yourself with wax that is too hot. There is also the problem of ingrown hairs as your hair begins to come back.

If your hair grows in quickly (and everybody is different), shaving may be cheaper and quicker even though you have to do it more often.

The FDA has just approved a new hair removal method using lasers. Thermolase® is the latest hi-tech assault on body hair. The laser heats the hair root, but supposedly with less pain and with less chance of scarring. Watch the fashion magazines for future announcements on this new process.

Dear JoAnn,

I have never been able to find a wig that I am completely satisfied with. Can you tell us where you purchase your wigs and what brand you find to be the best.

Robyn, Texas

Dear Robyn,

Perhaps it is not so much the wig as much as the wig style. Styling a wig is an art and not every hair stylist is good at it. Certainly, no one can make a bad wig look

great, but a good stylist can make even a mediocre wig look wonderful.

Nevertheless, I happen to like Jacquelyn wigs, which are expensive by any measure. They start at about \$150 and go up from there. I wear all my wigs quite frequently and I find that Jacquelyn wigs just hold up better than the less expensive makes.

However, I also own René of Paris, Louis Ferre, and Henry Margu wigs that are excellent values. You might want to check out the new René of Paris Medical Collection. These are wonderful wigs designed for chemo patients. They have a few extra touches that set them one step above the regular René line. Our advertiser Consulting Cleo handles this line. Give her a call, but check with our other advertisers as well.

Dear JoAnn,

I use a razor to shave my legs, but my skin has a lot of blemishes and they really show up when I have on hose. Is there any other way to get smooth legs?

W.T., Ontario, Canada

Dear W. T.,

You could try wax or a depilatory. Both methods get the hair below the skin which maximizes smoothness. How fast the hair grows back depends on your body chemistry. Both methods can also cause skin problems, so be careful and test a small patch of skin first.

You were not clear if the blemishes were caused by the shaving. If they aren't, then no matter what method you use, they'll still show. You can attack this problem in two ways to camouflage those blemishes. Try wearing two pairs of pantyhose with the first pair opaque and nude in color. Or, there is leg camouflage makeup which works great but can take a while to apply. Regardless, you might want to consult a dermatologist about those blemishes.

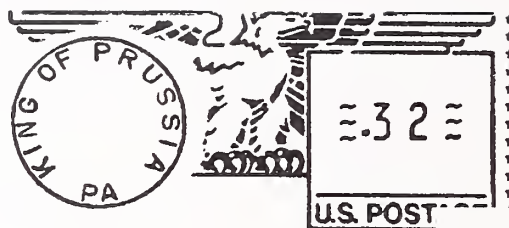
That's it for this issue.

Stay Frosty!

JoAnn



Letters



Fantastic Magazine

I would just like to say that you are absolutely beautiful! Also, I find your magazine really fantastic. Enclosed are two photos which I hope you will find good enough to print in your Mirror-Mirror section. Keep up the good work and looking forward to many more issues.

Michelle, W. Penna.

Faithful Reader

I am a faithful reader of your magazine which I get at Wildside in Toronto. I am a member of the Canadian CrossDressers Club and the latest issue of LadyLike is always the hot topic of conversation. We especially like the Profiles.

I am 40 years old and have been crossdressing all my life. My favorite pastime is to get dressed and go downtown shopping in the afternoon and then spend the evening at one or more of the nightclubs with some of my "sisters."

I have sent some pictures taken by my friend Laura and would very much like to see one or more in a future issue. We girls north of the border really appreciate your magazine, so keep up the good work.

Deborah Lynne, Toronto

Glad She Found LadyLike

It has now been two years since I found LadyLike and I'm very glad I did! Through your publication I have learned to feel better about who I am and what I do. Therefore, I am going to slowly inch my way out of the closet. Enclosed please find several pictures which helps to introduce the "new" me.

I have shared your materials with

my wife and it has made a difference in her acceptance,

Terna, Wis.

Likes "Then & Now"

I very much appreciate your sending me my issue of LadyLike so quickly. I am a friend of the cover girl Linda Lewis (#22), and I can easily understand her enthusiasm and excitement.

Linda told me of the "Then & Now" section. It sounded like a marvelous idea. I am sending a variety of photos. It would be quite a thrill for me to be included in that section.

You may have noticed that I am really one of the "old timers". It was way back in 1969 when I made those initial steps from the closet. I find that as time passes, I sort of look at our community from a nostalgic, or historical point of view.

As an observer of, and participant in, our community, I have witnessed some amazing changes. One of those changes being the wealth of literature available, of which all of us should be proud. I think you, and others, are owed a word of thanks for bringing us to the point of respectability which we now enjoy.

Pamela Rogers, N.C.

(See Pam on page 21)

It's Tough In Poland

Thank you very much for your lovely letter and brochure about TV publications in the U.S. I found it very interesting and probably I will get some of them soon. I am happy that you would like to be my friend. I would like to know you better.

In my last letter I told you a pretty long story about my beginnings as a TV. I can now say more things about

it. Also it is not easy for me to cope with it. So many times I wanted to throw it away, but always it comes back again.

Why I wanted to do that? There were some reasons. The most important is that I cannot realize all my desires because of the conditions I live in. Maybe you remember I told you that my wife, Eve, accepted my crossdressing, but after some time she wanted me to stop. I have just stopped talking to my wife about it because I understand she will never accept me in this new role. Always her reaction made me unhappy so I am not going to tell her about it any more. Before I would put on feminine lingerie every time I went to bed. But now I don't do that. I think if she could see other persons like us maybe she would understand. Perhaps in the future I will take her to a meeting of a TV group somewhere.

Some time ago I started to correspond with very nice Danish TV, Alice. She is very experienced because she used to dress as woman almost all the time. She has a lovely wife who accepts her feminine role. They both share the same clothes and lingerie. She really helps me to not give up my feminine side. Alice wants to invite me to the place she lives. She wrote an article about me in a local magazine for transvestites and sent a copy of it to me. It is a pity that nobody else wrote to me yet as I just wanted to find new friends. I understand I should develop Linda. Maybe it is very important for me. I am sure it is. But I must be in touch with people like us.

I know only one young real girl

continued on page 16



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Letters...

who will treat me like a woman. She lives in another city many hundreds of kilometers from here. We have never met. I have seen her only in pictures. Maybe I will visit her in the beginning of next year. She promised to show me how a woman should look and she will prepare for me lingerie, clothes, wig and other ladies accessories. But it does not mean that I want to leave my wife and family. I really love them very much.

Maybe I told you in my last letters that I have been trying to find any TV friends here in Poland, but it is not so easy. I put many advertisements in some special newspapers. I have never heard about any crossdresser support group in Poland. Many times, I tried to set up the my own club that could help and support the Polish transvestites but I could not find them. I think the main reason is that they are afraid to open up to other people. But today I got 3 letters from TVs and I hope to approach them very soon. All of them are afraid that their wives will discover them. I would like to help them and to start building up a support group for us and others. Maybe it would be a good start for such club here. But I need some support from you and others more experienced. It is not easy for me to cope with all these problems because I am running my own commercial business.

I enclose two photos of myself as Linda taken by my German friend Claudia a year ago. I hope you will like them. Of course, you can also publish them if it is possible.

I hope we can become good friends and perhaps I will find more friends in your country. In my next letter I will give you some more news about progress in creating a TV group here in Poland. I also think about starting our club magazine in the near future if possible. Maybe you could give me some ideas for this?

I will close this letter and I am sending a lot of very warm greetings to you and all your friends.

Linda, Warsaw, Poland

(See Linda on page 22)

Thanks for LadyLike

Even though I see you almost every month at the meetings of Renaissance, I've never taken the time to tell you how much I love *LadyLike*. I feel very fortunate in that your magazine was the very first one I came across when I left the closet three years ago and wanted to learn more about the transgendered experience.

All in all, *LadyLike* is classy, informative and just plain fun to read. From the Profiles, the articles and Girl Talk, the love you put into the magazine shows in each and every issue.

Enclosed are a few photos of myself if you wish to consider them for publication. I would've done this much sooner, but I wanted to make sure I look my very best before I even thought about sending in photos. While I'm nowhere near up to par with Laura Covington, I like to think I don't look too bad, especially in one of my "office girl" outfits.

Once again, thank you oh, so much for putting out an absolutely excellent magazine. You, and *LadyLike* are winners in every way!

Jessica Charlene Brandon, Phila.

It Was A Good Day

I want to express my appreciation to you and your company. It is nice to know that there is a company that cares for it's customers. I have done business with you for several years and have never been disappointed with the service or product that I have received. The day I found *LadyLike* was truly a good day.

Penny Tatlock, Ore.

Her Two Cents Worth

I just got my new issue of LL last week. I noticed the letter from Dee

Kay, and thought I'd throw my two cents in. I am a young TV myself, (23), and have encountered many of the problems that she relates.

My early experiences are similar to everyone else's. And all through high school and college, I kept it pretty low key. I would usually reveal my secret to close friends when I had too much to drink. I only told those I knew would understand, and I can't think of a single instance where I lost a friend because I let them in on it.

For my first two years in college, I lived in the dorm. There was no privacy and so I didn't dress. My sole resource was Letters to Penthouse, stuffed away in my dresser. After my sophomore year, I moved off campus with a friend. He was gone a lot on weekends, and since I had my own room, there was plenty of privacy. (He to this day, to my knowledge, does not know.) The first time out, I went to a Halloween party as one of my female professors. Raided the local Goodwill for some clothes, shaved my legs and combed my hair as she did. It was done as a joke, but it was still quite a thrill for me.

There was a gay/lesbian/bisexual support group forming on campus, and I started going. Partly to show my support for other alternative lifestyles, and partly with the hope of finding a kindred spirit. (I had read a statistic that 1 in a 1000 people enjoyed cross-dressing regularly. My school had an enrollment of about 1000.) I didn't, but I did find a couple more people I could talk to. We all felt alone for our own reasons and could talk about it to each other.

The next year, I moved to another house with two other friends. Both knew and didn't care as long as I didn't lounge around the house "dressed like a tramp," as one put it. The next Halloween I hit the Goodwill for a new outfit, borrowed a wig from the theater department, and recruited a female friend to do my makeup.

(Costume parties are such a great excuse!) We went out and hit a couple of parties, and I ended up at the school dance. Tongues were wagging that next week, let me tell you. But I didn't care. I was out, I was beautiful, and I was finally relaxed.

It was about this time I discovered *LadyLike* in an adult bookstore. Before, all I had ever seen were the Chicks with Dicks variety and the Hot and Sweaty personals. Ick. But with *LadyLike*, I finally found other people who enjoyed it for itself. It's cliché by now, but, I wasn't alone anymore. From *LadyLike*, I found the River City Gender Alliance, the only TV/TS support group in the state. I wrote to them and received an almost immediate reply.

To make a long story short, I now get out and about once a month. It's not as often as I'd like to, but it's better than nothing. I've met some really good people through the group, I have the makings of a decent feminine wardrobe, and I can do my own make-up. Like everyone else, I've stayed awake on those long nights, wishing things could be different, wishing at least I could fall asleep. Things can still get rough at times, but I know now there's a whole sisterhood out there. You may have to search, but, there's always someone willing to listen.

Rhonda Rho, Iowa

Coming Out

You may recall that I wrote to you earlier this year, at that time I indicated that I was preparing to come out of the closet again after many years of keeping Stephanie buried away, but not forgotten. On my first adventure out, I caught the show at the Queen Mary night club and had a light snack at a local dinner. At the Queen Mary, I was treated well; however, in talking to some of the performers, I knew they read me well. Later at the dinner I had no problems

and nothing was said or was I the focus of any curiosity from other patrons. All in all it was a pretty good time although I wished that I had a companion to share the experience.

The second time out was after I visited Jim Bridges Boutique. Jim did a marvelous feat of magic and the years melted away. At one point Jim remarked that they would card me for sure if I went to the Queen Mary. Although we both enjoyed the joke, Jim did do a remarkable transformation. During the time I was undergoing the transformation, I met Lynda James, a member of C.H.I.C. Lynda and I discussed the organization of which she is a member. Lynda gave me the address of C.H.I.C. and suggested that I write a letter to the organization and I would be invited to some meetings to determine if a match of personalities and commonalities could be determined. Jim has promised that if I give him enough notice on the next time out, he would try to get the current president of C.H.I.C. to his Boutique where we could meet and have some further discussions. Later that evening I drove to the Powder Puffs of Orange County, as Joan Goodnight had invited me to attend a meeting. When I arrived and met Joan, she said the speaker had failed to show and basically the meeting had become a series of small groups. Joan and I talked for a while and I met a lady from San Diego who is a member of Neutral Corner. The evening at PPOC seemed to die of its own lack of direction or purpose. I left and drove back to the valley, where I thought of going to the Queen Mary where I knew Lynda was spending the evening with some friends. On the way back the rain began again and since I did not bring an umbrella, I decided to call it an evening.

Well, I'm back into the TV arena and I intend to stay and try to become active if I can find a group or even a few friends that share the same inter-

ests. So far PPOC does not seem to have much to offer and after my telephone conversation with Virginia Prince, whom I had met approximately 30 years previously, I do not feel that the local branch of Tri-Ess represents the type of people I am looking forward to spending some quality time with. I hope I have not set my sights too high for the type of persons that I am looking for.

In your letter you ask if I would send some photographs. I feel that a few might be worth while and am sending copies for your consideration. You have my permission to publish any or all if you decide they are worthy.

Thank you again for your publication that has given me a restart and the source of several contacts. Currently my biggest problem is finding clothing that looks and feels right. Some suggestions have been made that may help. I am sure that it will take time to assemble a reasonable wardrobe.

Stephanie, Calif.

(See Stephanie on page 22)

LL

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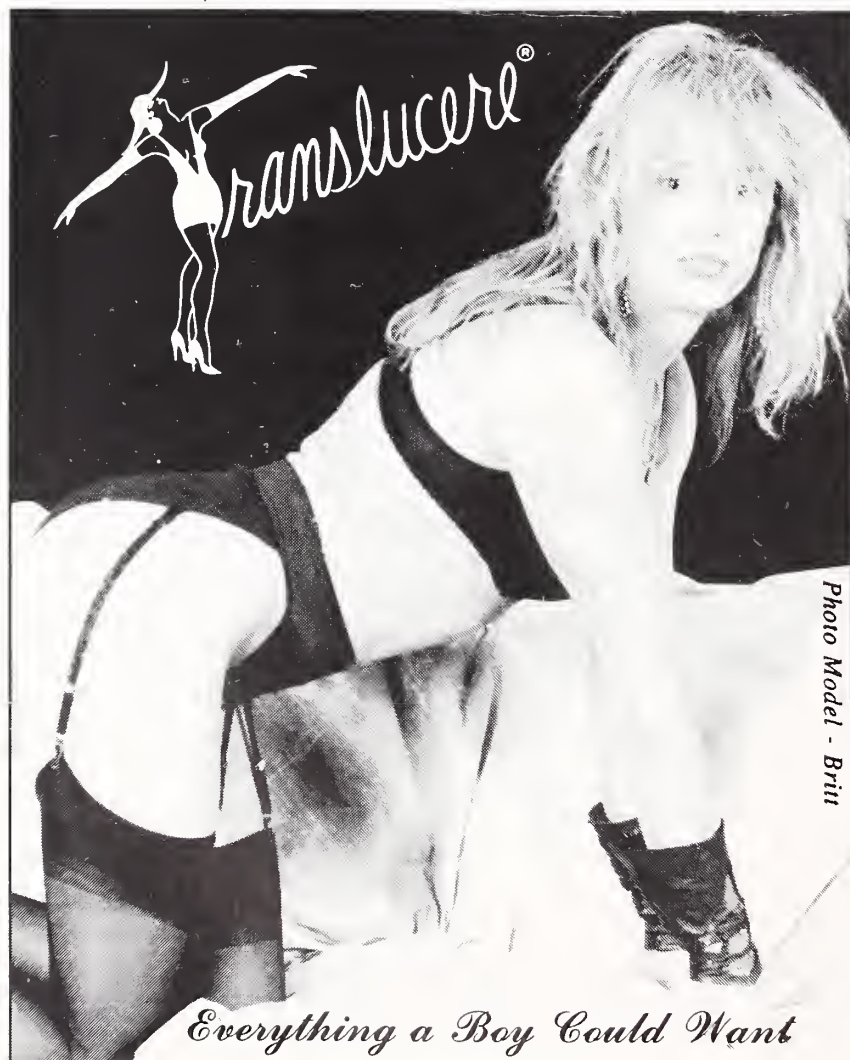


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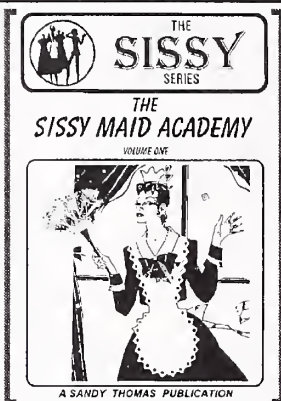


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Finding a job was impossible, especially with Allan's long hair. After his mother is promoted, he's offered her old job... a job that requires that he wear a dress. "Well, the money is great and this way I don't have to cut my hair!" Allan rationalized. "But you'll have to put it in up curlers it every day!" his mother warned, "And don't forget high heels!"

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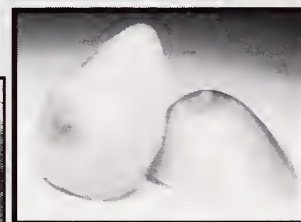
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Mirror



Linda, Warsaw, Poland



*Stephanie, CA
"Merissa Who?"*



Andrea, NorCal



Stephanie, TX



*JoAnn Roberts (l.) PA
& Diane Dale (r.) PA*



Brenda Altman, CA



Michelle



Cynthia Alexis Honeywell, TX



Diane (l.), VA & Tina, NY



Five Queens, all LadyLike
Morgan Stevens (LL#5),
Linda Lewis (LL#22),
and Rachel Jean



Michelle P, W. PA



Babs, NJ



Erica Edwards, PA



er girls – from l. to r.:
lly Sheridan (LL#4),
nn Roberts (LL#6),
racy (LL#15)



Espy Lopez, CA



Mary Alice, CT



June, NY

Resources

Our listings are the most up-to-date. Please keep us informed of any changes or additions. Thanks!

National US Organizations

American Educational Gender Information

Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724.

Publishes Chrysalis, AEGISNews, and several pamphlets on transgender issues. Also book sales. Extensive referral network for all transgender issues. Phone: 404-939-0244. Call in evening. AEGIS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization affiliated with Renaissance (see below). Send email to: aegis@mindspring.com.

International Foundation for Gender Education,

123 Moody St., Waltham, MA 02154. Publishes TV/TS Tapestry. Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Phone: 617-899-2212. A non-profit service organization now accepting memberships at \$25 per year (does not include a Tapestry subscription). Email: ifge@world.std.com.

Renaissance Education Assoc., Inc., 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. Phone: 610-975-9119, 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of \$16 includes a 24-page monthly newsletter, Renaissance News & Views. Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and eight affiliates. Affiliates are noted with “(!)” in the list below. Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. Email: bensalem@cpn.com.

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the Femme Mirror quarterly. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with “#” in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. Email: jftris@aol.com

Organizations by State, Name, Address, City, Zipcode

Alaska

Alaska T People, P.O. Box 670349, Chugiak, AK, 99567

Arizona

Alpha Zeta#, Tri-Ess, PO Box 1738, Tempe, AZ, 85280-1738

California

Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA, 94527-2885, dvvg@rwr13.vip.best.com

Born Free, PO Box 1897, Corona, CA, 91718, 909-278-0958, bornfree1@aol.com

Alpha#, PO Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA, 90036, 213-876-6141

Androgyny, PO Box 480740, Los Angeles, CA, 90048, 213-856-4867, shirley@xconn.com

FTM International, 5337 College Ave., #142, Oakland, CA, 94618, jamisong@aol.com

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA, 95821-1456, 916-482-7742, ava4sga@aol.com

Neutral Corner, PO Box 12581, San Diego, CA, 92112, 619-685-

3696, nutrclmr@aol.com

ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA, 94142-6486, 510-549-2665, <http://www.zoom.com/personal/cindym/docs/etvc.html>

Rainbow Gender Alliance, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA, 95170-0730, 408-984-4044, <http://www.transgender.org/tg/rga/rgapage.html>

Sigma Sigma Beta#, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, CA, 96151
Powder Puffs of California(!), PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA, 92686, 714-779-9013, ppoc@aol.com

Colorado

Delta#, PO Box 16208, Denver, CO, 80216-6208, 301-595-5874
Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc., 7951 W Mississippi Ave. Ste. H, Lakewood, CO, 80226-4325, 303-763-5097

Connecticut

connecticut View(!), PO Box 2281, Devon, CT, 06460, <http://www.cdspub.com/ctv.html>

Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, CT, 06034, www.cdspub.com/ctv.html

Twenty (XX) Club Inc., PO Box 387, Hartford, CT, 06141-0387, 203-646-8651

Delaware

Renaissance, Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE, 19808, 302-995-1396, kinjite7@aol.com

Florida

Serenity, PO Box 307, Hollywood, FL, 33022, 305-436-9477

Starburst, P.O. Box 298, Lithia, FL, 33547, 813-633-9653

Eden Society, PO Box 1692, Pompano Beach, FL, 33061-1692, 305-784-9316, edents@aol.com

Tau Lambda#, PO Box 3426, Tallahassee, FL, 32315-3426

Phi Epsilon Mu, Tri-Ess, PO Box 3261, Winter Park, FL, 32790-3261, 407-677-9540, kelley.fl@aol.com

Georgia

Atlanta Gender Explorations (!), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA, 30357, 404-435-4203

Sigma Epsilon#, PO Box 272, Rosewell, GA, 30077-0272, 404-552-4415

Hawaii

Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, HI, 96812, 808-923-4270

Iowa

Iowa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52406, Scottm@ins.infonet.net

Illinois

Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL, 60657, 708-749-1202

Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 126, Washington, IL, 61517, 309-444-9918

Chi#, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL, 60191-0040, 708-364-9514

Indianapolis

IXE, PO Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN, 46220

Kansas

Wichita Transgender Alliance, PO Box 315, Kechi, KS, 67067, 316-682-9131

KCCAF (Kansas City Crossdressers & Friends), PO Box 4092, Overland Park, KS, 66204

Kentucky

Louisville Gender Society, PO Box 5458, Louisville, KY, 40255, 502-966-3128, dawnw@transgender.org

Louisiana

Gulf Gender Alliance(!), PO Box 870213, New Orleans, LA, 70187-1300, 504-523-4203

Massachusetts

ASSET, PO Box 3121, Greenfield, MA, 01302, asset@crocker.com

Sunshine Club, PO Box 149, Hadley, MA, 01035-0149, 413-863-4202

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 2283, Woburn, MA, 01888-0483, 617-891-9325

Maine

Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME, 04101

Outreach Institute of Gender Studies, 405 Western Ave., #345, So. Portland, ME, 04330, 207-775-0858

Michigan

IME of W. Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI, 49501

Crossroads, PO Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI, 48068-1245, 313-537-3267

Minnesota

City of Lakes Crossgender Community, PO Box 16265, Minneapolis, MN, 55416, 612-933-5288

Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression, PO Box 17945, St. Paul, MN, 55117, 612-220-9072

Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO Box 9433, St. Louis, MO, 63117, 314-997-9897, stlfg@aol.com

Mississippi

Beta Chi#, PO Box 31253, Jackson, MS, 39286-1253, 601-982-7678

North Carolina

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332, Asheville, NC, 28814, 704-259-9428

Kappa Beta#, PO Box 12101, Charlotte, NC, 28220

Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, PO Box 25347, Charlotte, NC, 28229-5347, 704-551-8838

AGO (Alternative Gender-Oriented), 1235-E East Blvd., Charlotte, NC, 28203

Triad Gender Assoc., PO Box 78082, Greensboro, NC, 27427

Circle of Children, Rt 5 Box 564, Zebulon, NC, 27597, 919-269-8698

Resources

Contact CDS by mail at PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, Pa 19406, or by email at list@cdspub.com

Nebraska

River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 680, Council Bluffs, NE, 51502

New Jersey

Renaissance South Jersey, PO Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ, 08330, 609-641-3782

MOTG(!), PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ, 07701, 908-219-9094

Sigma Nu Rho#, PO Box 9255, Trenton, NJ, 08650, 800-480-3152

New Mexico

Phi#, 8200 Montgomery NE, #241, Albuquerque, NM, 87109, 505-831-2285

New York

TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY, 12212-3604, 518-436-4513

Crossroads of Buffalo, 2316 Delaware Ave., #102, Buffalo, NY, 14216

Lambda Chi Lambda#, PO Box 1010, Cooperstown, NY, 13326, 607-547-4118, stucumone@aol.com

LIFE, PO Box 3015, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY, 11779, 516-433-4866, sabrina.stone@rex.com

Chi Delta Mu# PO Box 93, Mountainville, NY, 10953, 201-663-0772

Metropolitan Gender Network(!), 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY, 10014, 201-794-1665, ext. 332, natashanz@aol.com

Transgender Network, PO Box 1611 South Road Annex, Poughkeepsie, NY, 12601-0611

CD•Network, PO Box 92055, Rochester, NY, 14692, 716-251-2132

EON Inc., 523 W. Onandaga St., Syracuse, NY, 13204, 315-475-5611

Nu Phi Chi#, 7954 Transit Rd. S197, Williamsville, NY, 14221, 716-643-2626

Ohio

Cross-Port, PO Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH, 45254-0657, 513-474-9557

Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Columbus, OH, 43068, 614-237-4321

Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Parma, OH, 44129, 216-586-9292, paradisec1@aol.com

Alpha Omega#, PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, OH, 44054-0053

Glass City Sisters, PO Box 8532, Toledo, OH, 43623

Oklahoma

Sooner Diversity, PO Box 575, Norman, OK, 73070, rachelokcd@aol.com

Oregon

North West Gender Alliance, PO Box 4928, Portland, OR, 97208, 503-774-8463

Trans-Port, P.O. Box 66913, Portland, OR, 97290-6913, 503-774-8463

Pennsylvania

Renaissance Greater Philadelphia, PO Box 530, Bensalem, PA, 19020, 610-975-9119, bensalem@cpn.com

CrossDressers International, PO Box 61, Easton, PA, 18044, 212-243-0837

Erie Sisters, 2115 West 8th St., #261, Erie, PA, 16505

Renaissance Lower Susquehanna Valley, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA, 17105-2122, 717-780-1578

Transpitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA, 15230, 412-781-0257

TSG (Transsexual Support Group), 6020 Penn Circle South, Pittsburgh, PA, 15206, 412-661-7030, ts@usaor.net

Tennessee

Alpha Pi Omega#, PO Box 784, Brentwood, TN, 37024-0784

Memphis TransGender Alliance, PO Box 11232, Memphis, TN, 38111-0232, 901-353-2612

Tennessee Vals, PO Box 92335, Nashville, TN, 37209, 615-664-6883, <http://www.transgender.org/tg/tvals/>

Texas

Tau Chi#, PO Box 1105, Alief, TX, 77411, 713-988-8064, jftris@aol.com

Austin Second Image, PO Box 14965, Austin, TX, 78761, 512-515-5460

Texas Assoc. of Transsexuals (T.A.T.S.), PO Box 142, Bellaire, TX, 77401, 713-435-7293

Texas T Party, PO Box 17, Bulverde, TX, 78163, 210-980-7788

ReCast Education & Information Network, PO Box 224001, Dallas, TX, 75222-4001, 214-641-4842

Gulf Coast Transgender Community, PO Box 90335, Houston, TX, 77090, 713-780-3553

Int'l Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy, 5707 Firenza St., Houston, TX, 77035-5515, 713-723-8368, prfrye@aol.com

Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE), 8880 Bellaire B2 #104, Houston, TX, 77036, 713-347-8747, melp@ix.netcom.com

Delta Omega#, PO Box 141924, Irving, TX, 75014-1924, 214-264-7103

Epsilon Tau#, PO Box 945, New Waverly, TX, 77358, 409-344-6014

Utah

Alpha Rho# PO Box 1586, Orem, UT, 84059-1586, 801-553-8141

Virginia

Trans-Gender Education Association, PO Box 16036, Arlington, VA, 22215, 301-949-3822

Virginia's Secret, PO Box 34631, Richmond, VA, 23234, 804-320-8737

Washington

Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA, 98103, 206-284-1071

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106, Seattle, WA, 98118, 206-329-6651, <http://www.halcyon.com/ingersoll/home.html>

Washington, DC

Washington-Baltimore Alliance, PO Box 50724, Washington, DC, 20091-0724, 800-738-0389

Wisconsin

Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, Milwaukee, WI, 53214, 414-297-9328

West Virginia

The Valley Girls, P.O. Box 181, Dunbar, WV, 25064-0181, 304-340-3512, brwtvg1@aol.com

Trans-West Virginia, PO Box 2322, Huntington, WV, 25724, n/a

Canadian Organizations

Alberta

Phi Sigma#, PO Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr. SE, Calgary, T2J 7C9

Illusions Social Club, PO Box 2000, Calgary, T2C 1B4

Illusions Social Club II, PO Box 33002, Edmonton, T5P 4V8

British Columbia

Dream Girls, P.O. Box 535, Kamloops, V2C 5L7

Combury Society, PO Box 3745, Vancouver, V6B 3Z1

Ontario

Monarch Social Club, PO Box 386, Mississauga, L5A 3A1

Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Ottawa, K1L 8E4

Quebec

Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K 3B8

TransPORs (Post-Op Recovery Residence), 2006 Sherbrooke East, Montreal, H2K 1B9

For the most complete listing of Support, Counseling and Vendor Resources in the transgender community, you need to get the CDS Who's Who & Resource Guide.

Subscribers to *LadyLike* can purchase a copy of the current *Who's Who & Resource Guide* at a 25% discount off the regular price. Due to large increases in paper prices during 1995, we do not have a final retail price for the 1996 Guide at press time. Please contact us after November 31, 1995 for a final price on the 1996 *Who's Who & Resource Guide to the Transgender Community*.

Visit us on the World Wide Web at <http://www.cdspub.com/>



▲ Laura Covington, CA



▼ Diane Dale, PA

MIRROR MIRROR

▼ Fran Williams, PA



▼ Keli Grey, MD





TV Video Reviews

Crossdressing at the movies with Laurie Ann

In the past few years there have been a number of films with transgender themes or actors playing a transgendered person. *The Crying Game*, *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert*, and *M. Butterfly* are recent releases that have achieved some degree of acclaim.

Although there are many more transgender oriented films today, there have been a number of such films since the 1960s. Most were the efforts of independent film makers. Most were low budget and often had obvious technical and acting flaws. Almost all of them had minor and very brief theatrical exposure and quickly faded from sight.

Many of these half-forgotten films have recently been transferred to video tape and are available from video sources that specialize in cult and obscure cinema. This column will review some of the lesser known films. You may find, as I have, that most of these films are not only fun and entertaining to watch, but they also offer some interesting insights about one of our favorite subjects – crossdressing.

She Man

She Man: A Story of Fixation, is one of those very unique films. Made in 1967, I regard it as the *Glen or Glenda* of the 60's. *She Man* was Bob Clark's directorial debut. Clark went on to direct *Porky's*, *Loose Cannons*, and a variety of other film and television productions. But in the 60's he was just out of college and directing a play in Miami when, it is said, he was approached by Charles Broun, a local developer, who wanted to be a movie producer. Broun told Clark he was going to be making a movie nearby and wanted Clark to direct. That was an offer no aspiring director could refuse, even though Clark knew next to nothing about film directing.

Filming commenced at one of Broun's developments, Lee High Acres. Locals were used as actors with the exception of the crossdressers who were, I believe, professional female impersonators. A funeral parlor and greenhouse were the primary sets.

The storyline reflects a typical CD fantasy. The "hero" is forced to "dress" and finds out rather quickly that he enjoys the transformation into femininity. He meets a GG who is attracted to his feminine side and they become lovers. This theme, in various forms, is often the plotline in most CD fiction.

In *She Man*, our hero, Albert Rose, played by FI Leslie Marlow, is an ex-combat Infantry officer, and



Leslie Marlow as Rose/Albert

well-to-do playboy with a Congressman for a father. Albert is blackmailed by Dominita, a sexy siren and entrepreneur, who enjoys controlling others. Dominita falsely accuses Albert of cowardice and desertion under fire while in Korea. She threatens to go public with this information unless Albert agrees to give her one year of his life to be her maid. Of course, this means Albert must be transformed into a woman.

Dominita is actually Dominic, the real deserter from Albert's platoon in Korea. Dominic is using the Dominita persona to hide out, but it's pretty clear he

continued on next page



Dorian Wayne as Dominita/Dominic

enjoys being a feminine, glamorous woman. Dominita is played by Dorian Wayne, another professional female impersonator.

Albert has no notion that Dominita is not a woman, let alone the she is really Dominic. He resists being transformed — “No way am I going to be turned into a Drag Queen!” — but gives in with only token resistance. His transformation is assisted by Ruth, a young, attractive GG who has had some negative experiences with macho men. She quickly becomes attracted to Albert’s feminine side and the fall in love. (Everybody say, “Ahhhh!” at this point.)

Albert, now fully transformed into Rose, really gets into the high heels, lovely dresses, makeup, and wigs. He finds that he really enjoys “dressing up.”

Now, Albert isn’t the only one that Dominita is controlling. Her entire household staff, it seems, including Ruth, is being blackmailed. Albert and Ruth try to discover some information about Dominita to get themselves free of her grasp.

Albert accidentally finds out Dominita’s secret identity and exposes her in front of the entire household. The wicked Dominita is humiliated and loses her power over everyone after Albert pulls off her wig.

Finally, in a scene almost directly lifted from *Glen or Glenda?* Ruth and Albert consult a psychiatrist. The implication is that Albert/Rose has accepted his feminine side and his need to crossdress. Ruth is happy as she has found a lover who is gentle and can express his feminine side.

The “psychiatrist” at the end of the film (who, by the way, has a slight speech defect) also introduces the film. He tells us that the story is a dramatization of real people taken from a clinical case file. He explains that this film is an attempt to help us understand human behavior. Closing the film, he appears again, pleading for understanding of non-ordinary behavior, that it is okay to be a transvestite, and that laws

against crossdressing are archaic. (Remember, this was 1967 and not too many therapists were giving this sort of advice back then.)

This video is a “must see” for anyone who enjoys crossdressing and crossdressing themes on film. Dorian Wayne is terrific as Dominita. He is very realistic looking, attractive and one of the best I’ve seen on film. Leslie Marlow as Albert/Rose does a credible job capturing the essence of a crossdresser.

Watch for a cameo appearance of Hans Crystal, a beautiful TS-impersonator who appeared in many of New York City’s drag bars in the 60’s and 70’s.

You won’t find *She Man* at your local video store. It is available from **Something Weird Video**, PO Box 33644, Seattle, WA 98133.

I welcome your comments, thoughts, and suggestions. Write to me, Laurie Ann, in care of *LadyLike*, or send email to tvideo@cdspub.com.

Next issue: *Let Me Die A Woman*, a transsexual cult classic directed by Doris Wishman.

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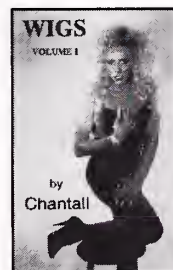
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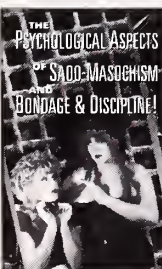
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Wandering the World Wide Web

The Internet is the hottest
and coolest place to be

JoAnn Roberts, CyberQueen

There are techno-snobs who believe if you're not connected to the Internet, you're culturally/socially deprived. Fear not, babies, I, your Tek-Gno-Tootsie, will give you the straight dope on getting wired.

First, think of the Internet as a global telephone network, complete with directory assistance, phone books, etc. Once you get your "phone" (in this case a computer with a modem) connected to the network, and once you know someone's "phone number" (in this case an Internet address) you can call anywhere and find information on just about anything.

First things first. You need three pieces: a moderately fast computer (a 386 PC, a MacIIx, or better) a telecommunications program and a modem. The telecomm program I use regularly is MicroPhone and it is available for both Mac and PC, but almost any will do. The modem needs to be a minimum of 2400 bps (bits per second), but 9600 bps is better and 14,400 bps is really necessary for downloading graphics and browsing the World Wide Web (WWW). (Be cool, say Fourteen Four or Twenty-eight Eight) A decent 9600 bps modem these days can be had for less than \$100 and a 14,400 for about \$150. The latest modems are 28,800 bps and sell for over \$200. Faster is better in this case. Most modems come with telecomm software and many also include fax software as a bonus.

If your computer came with software for America On-Line (AOL), CompuServe (CIS) or Prodigy, or if you've received such software through the mail, you can get on the Internet through these services, but the cost is high. Of course, you have full access to the all of the service's other options in addition to Internet access, but not all of the major computer services provide **full** Internet access yet, although it is coming.

So, let's assume you *do not* use AOL, CIS or Prodigy, then how do you get on the net? Like your local telephone service provider, there are Internet service providers all over the place. The service I use is DSC and they have access numbers in over 350 cities around the U.S. I'm very pleased with their service and the cost is quite reasonable. Call 1-800-521-2733 to see if DSC has a number near you. There are many other providers ranging from local (like Cross-Connections at 1-818-786-8887) to national (like Netcom and Delphi). Get thee to a bookstore and pick up one

of the many computer magazines or one of the newer Internet-specific mags like *Internet World* and check out the lists of Internet service providers.

You call the provider and ask for Internet services. You will be asked what kind of connection you want. For our purposes there are only two of economical interest: a Shell account and a SLIP/PPP account. The Shell account is the simplest and cheapest, both in terms of actual cost and hardware needed. To get into a Shell account you only need the minimum equipment I described above.

Shell account access means you will call your service provider's computer (the Host) and log into an account set up just for you, complete with a user name and password, just like calling into AOL, CIS or a local computer bulletin board system. However, the Host is connected to the Internet, so once you are logged in, you type the word "Shell" and you can now tell the Host what parts of the Internet you'd like to call. (**Warning:** The Internet itself runs under an operating system called Unix which can be difficult to learn and remember. All of the utilities available in a Shell account are Unix programs and you *will* need to learn how to use them to send and receive email, read newsgroups and do anything else on the Net.) DSC will provide you a Shell account with 24 x 7 access (i.e., 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – in other words unlimited) for \$12 a month plus whatever it costs you to call their local Host. Trust me, that's cheap!

But, Shell account access, as cheap as it is, doesn't allow you into the coolest, newest part of the Internet, the World Wide Web or WWW.

Well, that's not strictly correct. You can access the Web from a Shell by running Lynx, a text-only Web browser. However, you don't get the graphics, sound, and movies and that's the real point of the Web. But you can at least get a taste from Lynx.

Until recently, it took humongous hardware and lots of bucks to actually connect your own computer to the Internet and most people wouldn't want their machines on the Net full time anyway. But, a couple of network wonks got together and cobbled up something called SLIP or Serial Line Interface Protocol. SLIP runs through a moderately fast modem (minimum speed of 14,400 bps) and uses your service provider's

computer as a "switch" to connect your machine directly into the Internet. Your computer becomes, temporarily, a part of the global Internet network.

But, SLIP has other advantages. By a feat nothing short of magic, SLIP allows you to make multiple connections to the Internet over a single modem connection. Truly amazing! You will also see these accounts referred to as SLIP/PPP accounts. Everyone says PPP (Point to Point Protocol) is SLIP done correctly, but both work the same magic. A non-commercial SLIP/PPP account on DSC is about \$20 per month for unlimited access, plus whatever phone charges apply.

As you might imagine, "magic" comes at a price. In this case, that price is additional software and a faster modem. I already had the modem, but I spent several months looking for the bits and pieces of software. I finally found the *Internet Starter Kit for Macintosh* by Adam Engst, published by Hayden Books at an Encore Books. It had almost everything I needed to get wired. There is a companion volume for PCs. The most important piece of software you

need is a system extension called TCP/IP which stands for Telecommunications Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. Remember, I said the Internet is like a phone system? In the case where you use the Shell account, your IP address (phone number) is actually the Host's address and the Host knows who you are. But with a SLIP/PPP account, you need your own IP address. The TCP/IP system extension is where you will store this information. On Macs, the latest System 7.5 software includes this extension as MacTCP. If your Mac runs an earlier system, get Engst's book because it includes MacTCP. For PCs, I presume the PC edition of the book contains a similar extension, WinSock. IBM's OS/2 Warp apparently has TCP/IP built in and the much touted Windows95 will also have TCP/IP built into it.

So, once this extension is installed in your computer, your service provider will give you a series of IP addresses. These look something like this "192.222.15.00". One address will be for your machine, one will be for their mail server, one for their news server and maybe a few extras. Follow the

continued next page



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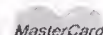
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Wandering the WWW

directions in the book and you won't go wrong. In addition to all these numbers, you will get an email address that looks like: yourname@provider.com. My email address is: CyberQueen@cdspub.com. Your email address is very important since you will use it to login to other systems and other people will use it to contact you.

Okay, next step is to access your SLIP account, but you won't do this via the telecomm program as before. For the Mac, there is a little program that does the call and login automatically. The program runs a script (an ASCII text file) that will be provided to you by your service provider. If you have to type the script manually, be very careful to type everything *exactly* as it is given to you. Auto-Login applications gives you minimal feedback, but do let you know that you are logging in and that you are connected. Once you see the word "connected" you're on the net

The Internet books described provide you with shareware programs that let you send and receive email (Eudora) and read newsgroups (like soc.support.transgendered), and download software from other Hosts (via FTP or File Transfer Protocol). This last part is important because you will use it to find and download other software products like Mosaic and Netscape Navigator Web browsers which is why we went to all this trouble in the first place. With SLIP/PPP you can read newsgroups, send email and browse the Web simultaneously.

I recommend getting Netscape Navigator by FTP at <ftp://www.cds�pub.com/pub>. Netscape is fairly large so it may take a while to download, but it is worth the wait. There are other browsers, Mosaic being the most common and the most recognizable. There are shareware versions of Mosaic and Navigator for Mac, PC and Unix machines, but all are buggy. Mosaic is available as shareware on CIS and AOL. Prodigy has their own browser.

Web browsers use an address called a URL or Uniform Resource Locator and they look like this: <http://www.cds�pub.com> - (This is the URL for the CDS Web site. Try it.) Crank up your browser and type in the URL and don't forget the "http://" part.

The first thing you will notice about a Web page are words that are underlined and in color. These are links to other sites. Embedded invisibly within the text are URLs for other locations. Click on one of the links and you will be connected to that site. More magic.

The other thing about Web pages that make them so neat are the graphics. Web pages can also have

sound and movies embedded. Most browsers require "helper" applications to hear sounds and play movies. The "Read me" files that come with the browsers and the Netscape Home Page will give you more information on these helpers and let you download them directly from the Internet.

Okay, so let's drop back a step. I said you could get to the Web without graphics through Lynx. There are other ways to get to the Web *with* the graphics through a Shell account, but your service provider has to play along. For both Mac and PC, there is TIA, The Internet Adapter. Think of this program as a three prong electrical plug to two prong plug adapter. Place the TIA files in your Shell account directory and run TIA from inside the Shell. You can now crank up Netscape or Mosaic and surf the Web. There are two caveats with TIA. First, your service provider must have TIA running on their system (DSC **does not** run TIA), and second, TIA does not allow multiple simultaneous connections, although this is probably not a big deal. TIA is shareware and will cost you \$25. FTP it from marketplace.com, and the directory is /tia/docs.

For Windows-only users, there is SlipKnot which will work from a Shell account as long as your provider has Lynx, too. SlipKnot, from MacroMind will let you browse the Web but does not support forms or email. It will let you FTP files, though. SlipKnot is \$29 for non-commercial users. FTP the files from netscape.com/pub/brooks/slipknot.

Once you get on the Net, this will all become second nature. You'll be cruising the Library of Congress and surfing the waves of data in New Zealand in no time.

The tg community is on the Web too, big time. Start your search at <http://www.cds�pub.com> and click on the **Transgender Resources** link. That will take you to a page loaded with information and links to other Web pages all over the world. From there, you're on your way to a whole new world.

So, go get wired and explore. When you stop by the CDS site, leave email and say, "Hi!"



CDS on the Net

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Fantasy VS Reality

Virginia Prince

What is real? With animals, everything starts from the stimulation of some sense organ; sight, smell, taste, feel, etc. After the stimulation, the animal reacts in some way to its perception of the real world. But with humans it is much more complex. We still react in the same animal way, but with a "thinking" brain and the phenomenon of self-awareness, we are able to deal with the world in a whole new dimension. We can construct ideas in our head. It is variously referred to as imagination or fantasy. Such ideas may or may not be compatible with what we know of the real world "out there." We can either react to these ideas in an attempt to relate them to reality, or we can kick them around in our head for the fun of it with no intention of trying to tie them to reality. Fantasy, imagination, creativity and dreaming are all part of this new, exclusively human, function and it manifests itself in all kinds of ways. We are concerned in this article with fantasies about sex and gender. It is easy to get carried away with fantasies of sex and gender because when you mix dissatisfaction and resentment with envy, admiration, desire and imagination, you have a wonderful brew. We all do it; to varying degrees, we are dissatisfied with the masculine role and resent, in some ways, the expectations that society has for us. At the same time, we are envious of girls in our youth, which in our teens turns to admiration and desire (both sexual and non-sexual) for females and how they live (gender). We begin to wonder what it must be like to be a girl/woman, at least for awhile, and we gradually become crossdressers. If life presents us with problems, we may become ever more deeply involved in crossdressing because it represents a state of human existence which seems not to have the problems and responsibilities that plague us in our everyday masculine life. We spend more and more time in "Femmeland" and begin to think about bodily changes that would bring us closer to our fantasy of being a woman. So, we begin electrolysis on our beards and perhaps take hormones to start breast development. There comes a

time when we decide that: (a) since we no longer have a beard to give us away, and (b) the hormones have begun to produce respectable breasts and we are able to "pass" under most circumstances, it would be "nice" to live longer and longer times in Femmeland. In due course, if economics, family and other considerations permit, we decide to try dressing and living full-time as a woman. If we do this, we have entered the classification of "transgenderist," one who lives and dresses full-time as a member of the gender opposite to his or her physical sex. For some the fantasy extends deeper. The differences between anatomical sex and sociological appearance/behavior (i.e., gender), become overlooked as separate aspects of human living and the fantasy now involves not only the acquisition of the social rights and privileges of women, but the acquisition of the anatomical characteristics as well. To do so requires getting rid of the male sexual equipment, just as passing over from a masculine to feminine lifestyle meant discarding suits, ties and all manner of masculine clothing. When the fantasy reaches this point, the individual considers himself a transsexual and begins to look forward to the surgical removal of the male appendage and surgical construction of the semblance of female genitals. Here is where the buck stops, to paraphrase Harry Truman. I mean the fantasy stops here because there is no further to go, so it bumps smack dab into reality. By definition, a female has ovaries, fallopian tubes, a uterus, cervix, vagina, clitoris and breasts. She is able, if all is normal and circumstances are right, to be inseminated, bring forth a child and suckle it at the breast. The fantasy constructed by transvestites, transgenderists and transsexuals involves, to one degree or another, the taking over of the feminine/female body, persona, and role. Now, parts of this fantasy are achievable. Males can live in and present themselves, more or less successfully, to society in such a way that other people assume the individual is not only a woman (gender)

continued next page

but that underneath all the clothing has the typical female organs (sex). With improved surgical techniques, it is now possible to remove the male genital organs and construct a vagina and clitoris that may even fool other doctors during a superficial genital examination. After surgery, the individual can, if all goes well, not only in surgery, but during subsequent healing, be able to receive a male vaginally. The male may not even realize that the anatomy he is enjoying is "man made," and in more ways than one. These changes constitute the whole of the original fantasy, but at this point reality sets in. Not only are the other female organs lacking, but the natural female instincts possessed by females of all species are not present. Social skills natural to girls and women are also lacking since the individual (except in a very few special cases) has been brought up as a boy. He may not have been a very successful boy, but he was not a girl, with a girl's expectations of becoming a woman someday. The thought processes largely remain as they were developed in childhood and adolescence. Women and men don't so much think differently as popular belief would have it, as they think about different things and with a different sense of significance or importance. The simple fact of being brought up as a girl endows a female with a set of expectations and requirements that a boy never experiences. At the time of her first menstruation she acquires a physical awareness of the fact of her femaleness. This means that her relations with men and boys will always be tempered with the knowledge not only of sexual differences, but of the behavioral and attitudinal differences that come with the territory. No amount of coaching, learning or passing as a woman will ever give a natural born male access to these factors. These differences are very subtle and many of them are not even recognized by ordinary people, but specialists in various aspects of human behavior have studied and recognized them. I would strongly recommend that any Bigenderist (BG), who plans on having much contact with the public get and read a book titled *You Just Don't Understand* by Deborah Tannen, Ph.D. Dr. Tannen is a linguist and the subtitle of the book is: *Men and Woman in Communication*. In her study of language and communication, she uncovered a number of previously unstudied differences in masculine and feminine speaking styles. She found that men in conversation speak in a "reportorial" style. They tell (i.e., report) some information to their listener. Women, on the other hand, seek rapport or a relation with their audience. This book has absolutely no connection with crossdressing, but it has much to do with

understanding the built-in differences in attitude, point-of-view, and reactions to simple conversational situations between men and women. These differences are inherently a part of the masculine and feminine way of life. The book is very revealing and points to considerable areas where BGs and transsexuals, in particular, can be tripped up and revealed as less than "true" women. These communication differences put still another limit on fantasy because while the differences are unconscious, other women will likely be quick to detect a transsexual's deviation from the rapport-building style. So, we may be able to portray the gender visibly with proper clothing, hair-style, makeup and overt behavior, but we cannot live it. To be a bit facetious, we can't totally escape from the blue blanket syndrome, or, alternately, we cannot acquire the pink blanket indoctrination. So get as far into the fantasy as you wish but be aware that the most you will ever get is a visa to visit Femmeland. You will always be a resident alien if you try to emigrate there. This last little bit of wisdom comes from someone with nearly 25 years as a resident-alien of Femmeland who has never attained citizenship. Apply for your "green card," if you will, but don't expect a passport. You'll never get it because you don't know the language. True women just think/speak in a different dialect.

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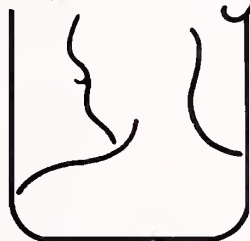
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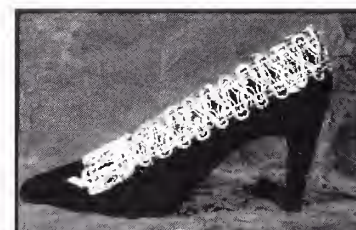
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Chapter 10

I was Laura Ann Sykes, girl on the run. Suspended from school, fired from her job, turned out of her home. Acting like a wild Indian. I looked at Bobbo Joe; hanging out with a wild Indian.

Of course, the folks I was having problems with were looking at it in another way. Leroy Amos Sykes, boy, insists that he's a girl. Wears dresses. Suspended from school for fighting. Fired from his job for impersonating a woman. Kicked out of his house for attacking his poor Daddy.

I was smart enough to know that life wasn't fair. What I couldn't figure out is how to get out from under life's thumb. How to become one of the fortunate sons, or in my case, fortunate daughters.

I wonder a lot how things might have turned out if I had never taken that first hormone pill. I would have physically looked like any other boy. I would have been expected to date girls, go to college, get a job, get married, have kids, retire, die. If I had been born a girl, I would have been expected to date boys, and eventually to get married and bear babies. The long-term expectations that are on me now are neither those of a boy or those of a girl. They are limited, not seeming to go much beyond getting out of my dresses and into a pair of pants. The short-term expectations are very confusing. I'm expected not to date, 'cause they think it's sick if I'm with a boy, and just as sick if I'm with a girl. At home, I'm expected to do woman's work and answer to a boy's name. I'm expected to avoid trouble with that fat psycho-p a t h

it in a pair of pants.

I was never a psychic fit for my putative gender, anyway. My behavior got me in trouble from the earliest age. I was always being called a sissy, told to be a Man. "Boys don't cry." "Boys don't play with dolls."

"Boys are snips and snails and puppy dog tails. That's what boys are made of."

The fact is, despite what my parents think, the hormones didn't make me the way I am. I got on the pills because I was this way in the first place. The pills have just kept me from being a freak of nature like Doc Symmons.

I am definitely going to have to put Doc's peg in a new hole. That look he sneaked at my pocketbook told me a whole world about him. He's stuck with the body of a man. Perhaps, like me, he has the psyche of a woman. Perhaps he has had to learn to control and subdue his innermost feelings because his hormones have given him masculine features. If not for the estrogens, would something very much like that have happened to me? If he had put himself on hormones when he was thirteen, would he have been like me?

Thinking about such things made my head hurt.

Every time the drawers under my bed get really full, I clean them out and put the money in a CD account. But I couldn't touch the account without penalty. I needed money to run on, and all I had was thirty-five dollars. Then I remembered my savings account. I had opened it when I was twelve years old, with babysitting money, and had never taken the money out. I thought there might be a couple of hundred dollars in it.

The drive-in window at the bank stays open until five o'clock, and we got there just before it closed. I took all of the money out of the savings account. There was a bit more than three hundred dollars, and it would have to provide

Johnny Ray. I'm expected to be helped by a psychologist who has the same problem I do. I want to do normal things: date, go to college, get a job, get married, have kids, retire, die. I just can't stand the thought of doing

The Problem
by Dallas Denny

me with clothes and gasoline and food and a place to stay until I could find a job. I had a check coming from the truck stop, and then there would be nothing. No work, no eat. Bobbo Joe had, perhaps, ten dollars. The man eats like a horse. I would have to feed him, at least until payday, for he seemed to be along for the duration.

After we left the bank, we drove by Mary June's house. Her truck was not in the drive. I needed to talk to her. She was the one spot of sanity left in a life that was falling apart. I couldn't phone her. Her parents wouldn't put my calls through. She had always called me, but now I wasn't at home, and my parents were unlikely to relay a message. And because of my suspension, I couldn't go on the school grounds and catch her there.

I guessed I would have to sneak up to her house that night and leave a message under the windshield wiper of the truck and hope that gawdawful alarm didn't go off and that she found the note before her parents did.

Bobbo Joe had been acting mysterious. There was somewhere he wanted me to go. Having nothing else to do, I indulged him.

Chapter 11

Bobbo Joe made me drive him to a convenience mart way out at Exit 266. We walked past the attendant and up to a bulletin board, which bristled with business cards and hand-lettered index cards: Alterations, General Contracting, Electrical Contracting, Plumbing, Septic Tanks Emp-tied, Backhoe for Rent, Yards Mowed, Firewood for Sale, Auto Body Work by Disabled Veteran, 1966 Volvo (Needs Work), Babysitting, Drummer and Lead Singer Looking For Band, Four-Family Yard Sale, Sculptured Nails, Dachshund Lost in Fair Park Neighborhood.

Bobbo laid his blunt finger on a blue business card. "I was in here about a month ago," he said. "Someone very strange-looking put this here."

The card read, "Support Group for Transsexual Persons. Discrete. Confidential. Dial (404) 693-8101 and ask for Alice." It was a long distance call. I bought a diet Fresca and got four dollars worth of change and headed for the pay phone at the front of the store. I dialed the number and put in the money when the operator told me to and a man answered.

"Hello?"

"May I speak to Alice, please?"

"This is Alice," he said, and I hung up.

"Alice is a man," I hissed at Bobbo.

He just grunted and shrugged. I stuck in a bunch more quarters and a dime and redialed the number.

"I'm sorry," I said. "I thought you said you were Alice."

"I am," he said, and I hung up again.

The third time, I managed not to disconnect.

"It's me again," I said. "You don't sound like an Alice."

"I have trouble with my voice," she admitted. (He admitted?) "How can I help you?"

"My friend saw your card on a bulletin board and showed it to me. I'm in all sorts of trouble because I'm..." I swallow hard, because to my knowledge the word "transsexual" had never left my mouth.

"I'm... I'm not a boy. I'm a girl, but I've got a Problem." I left the exact nature of the Problem to her imagination.

"I've been kicked out of the house, and suspended from school, and fired from my job, all on account of they think I ought to be a boy. There's just me and Bobbo Joe. the Paiute Indian, who was fired because he flashed Mr. DiPoulo and Murray the manager in my defense. There would be three of us, but I can't locate my girlfriend, Mary June. We got nowhere to go, and not much money."

"Honey, we're not the Department of Social Services. We can't help you find work or a place to stay. But if you would like to come in, you would be welcome at any of our meetings. In fact, we're having a little party tomorrow night to celebrate one of the girls' surgery. She's leaving on Saturday. We would love to have you."

"Good," I said. "Where is the party?"

"It's at six o'clock in the evening, at the tenth house on the right from the corner of Virginia and Highland, on Highland," she told me. "In Atlanta."

"Atlanta?" I said, looking at the card. I hadn't noticed the address. "Atlanta is a long way from here."

"Well, if you can't make it, just you remember that we meet every other Saturday at the same place. You're welcome at any time."

"Maybe I'll come sometime," I muttered, and put the receiver back on the hook.

We went back in the store and bought a bunch of little cans of Vienna sausages and a box of saltines and sat on a retaining wall and ate them. Bobbo put a sausage in his mouth and then flipped it over with his tongue. I'd seen him do the same thing with a lit cigarette, so I wasn't that impressed, and I told him so. He said it was good practice, and before long he was doing three at once. It got me tickled, and I got him tickled and we just sat there laughing until we ran down and then I found that I wasn't laughing, but crying — and it wasn't a little cry, either, 'cause it was the outlet for all the pain and frustration I'd been feeling. Bobbo, who is rarely at a loss for words, was more perplexed than he was that time Murray tore all his dollar bills in half. He just sat there looking uncomfortable until the tears finally wound down and I could say, "Well, what are we going to do now?"

Bobbo looked at me with a peculiar expression on his face. "You could marry me."

continued on next page

The Problem

"Bobbo!"

"We could get drunk."

"Bobbo!"

"We could go kick Johnny Ray's fat ass."

We talked some more about the first two suggestions, and then I let Bobbo Joe kiss me a couple of times, discovering to my surprise that he wasn't bad at it. He used a fake ID to get us a six-pack of Miller, and we drove around looking for Johnny Ray until the beer was all gone. I had Bobbo call Mary June's house twice and ask for her, but her mother didn't know where she was.

As there seemed to be nothing else to be done, we drove to the mall and played video games, and then saw a movie, and when the mall closed, we got in the car and drove by Mary June's house. She still wasn't home. Bobbo announced he was hungry, so we went to Pepe's and ordered a pizza, where I flirted with three college guys. They had a pitcher of beer, and wanted me to sit with them, but I couldn't, on account of I'm not of drinking age and Pepe would have kicked me out, and on account of I was with Bobbo Joe.

When we left Pepe's, we made one more pass by Mary June's house. Her truck still wasn't in the driveway, but all the lights were on, and there was a black-and-white county car in front of the house.

Well, I didn't think the Cunninghams were going to shoot me with the sheriff there, so I went up and knocked on the door. Justis, the deputy, opened the door. There was a ketchup stain on his blue uniform shirt. There was hair on his knuckles, and I wouldn't have been surprised if there was hair on his palms. He motioned me in.

The sheriff was sitting at the kitchen table with a big yellow pad and a number two yellow pencil, and I saw he had written "Mary June Cunningham" on the pad and underlined it three times. Police work.

"There she is!" shrieked Mrs. Cunningham, who ran across the floor and grabbed me and started shaking me. "What have you done with our daughter?"

"I'm looking for your daughter," I said, trying to keep my teeth from rattling. "I'm intendin' to marry her." It surprised me when I said it.

"You'll do nothing of the sort," Mr. Cunningham snorted.

Sheriff Foster pried Mrs. C's hands from my shoulders, and motioned me to sit. "Are you saying that you don't know where Mary June is?"

"No sir," I told him. "I've been waiting for her to come home. I only came in because I saw your car."

"She's lying!" cried Mrs. Cunningham. "She's done something with Mary June. They've been sneaking around

together for the past three or four years, doing God knows what. She's hidden her away somewhere."

Justis was blushing at the thought of what Mary June and I had done in the truck, but only I noticed. Or maybe Sheriff Foster did, because he sent Justis outside to check my car. He came in shortly with Bobbo Joe, who confirmed my story.

Mr. Cunningham turned his wheelchair in my general direction. "Do you have any idea where Mary June could be?" he asked.

Something was bothering me — something Johnny Ray had said. "I hope I'm wrong," I ventured.

"She does know!" cried Mrs. Cunningham. "She does know where Mary June is!"

"Sheriff, I hate to say anything unless you have reason to believe that something has happened to Mary June. I don't want to make trouble."

The sheriff hesitated a minute, and then said, "Show her." Mr. Cunningham rolled to the counter and picked up a slip of notebook paper and put it about three inches from his face so he could read it, I suppose to make sure that it still said what it said. He thrust it out and Bobbo Joe took it and brought it to where I was sitting.

There was a message on the paper, written in a childish hand with a felt-tip pen. "I have your daughter," it read. "It's time she found out what a real man is like."

I knew the handwriting.

"Well?" asked the sheriff.

"Johnny Ray wrote this note," I told him.

Chapter 12

Everybody was talking at once, just like on television. Mrs. C. was accusing me of me of being in collusion with Johnny Ray. Mr. C. was giving explicit details about what he was going to do to Johnny. Justis was asking the sheriff what he wanted him to do, and Bobbo was feeding Mr. Cunningham suggestions about what he could do to Johnny Ray when he caught him. Sheriff Foster was hollering for everyone to shut up.

When everyone stopped talking, the silence seemed loud. Mrs. C. began sobbing silently, and the sheriff gave her reassurances that sounded false. "Don't you worry. It's just one of those teenage infatuations. He won't hurt her." He took a yellow Ticonderoga pencil from his breast pocket and underscored Mary June's name twice more.

He looked at me. "What made you think Johnny Ray was behind this?"

"He made some threats about Mary June. That's why we got in a fight and got suspended from school."

"Exactly what did he say?" the sheriff asked.

"He said she needed a real man to put the meat to her." Mr. Cunningham made a choking sound.

"And then she would forget me. He said that he was going to take her away from me. And then we got kicked out of school for fighting."

The sheriff was writing furiously. As fast as he could get it down, I told him all about the scuffle at school and all the times Johnny kept sneaking up on us at night. When I finished, Mrs. Cunningham had a grim look on her face. Mr. Cunningham was pacing and fuming—or rather, he was rolling his wheelchair back and forth, which was the closest he could come to pacing. Bobbo Joe sat there wearing his Indian face, revealing nothing. Justis, I could see, was remembering all those times he had watched us through the back window.

Sheriff Foster stopped writing. "Why didn't you tell us this before?"

"Would you have believed me?"

He thought for a moment. "No, probably not. Where do you think he would take her?"

I don't know," I told him.

"Go to the cruiser and get on the radio," the sheriff said to Justis. "Find out where the Ray boy lives. Have a stop-and-detain put on his car."

"His car isn't running," I said. Bobbo looked proud. "They'll probably be in Mary June's truck. Johnny always liked it." I had taken a pen and a note pad from my pocketbook. I wrote down Johnny's address and phone number and handed it to the sheriff. "This is where he lives."

The sheriff grunted as he pulled himself out of the chair. "We'll go directly to the boy's house," he said. He and Justis went out the door.

Mr. and Mrs. C., and Bobbo Joe and I just sat and looked at each other. After about fifteen minutes, something truly remarkable happened. The tension in the air suddenly evaporated, and Mrs. Cunningham said, "Laura Ann, perhaps we have misjudged you."

Mr. Cunningham started, as if he had been thinking the same thing. Mrs. Cunningham continued. "I know you care for Mary June, Laura. I know you would never hurt her, and I'm sorry I thought that you did. I suppose you were just someone convenient to lash out at. Poor dear, you must be as worried as we are."

"Yes, ma'am," I said.

"But I think you know why we haven't approved of you and Mary June seeing each other."

"Yes, ma'am."

"Mary June needs to go with boys, not girls. Now, I know there's folks in this town who say you're not a girl, no matter what you look like on the outside. I don't go along with that. You never looked much like a boy anyway, and for the past three or four years now — well, no matter how hard I look at you, I just can't see a boy. If I did, then maybe I wouldn't mind you going with Mary June."

"No, ma'am."

"We've opposed the two of you being together for all these years, and it has bought us nothing. If — when — we get Mary June back, you're welcome to visit her and if the two of you want to go out together, we won't stop you. Right, Jason?"

Mr. Cunningham nodded in affirmation.

"Of course, we think it would be very nice if you and she would each find a nice young man. But no more difficulties between us. Okay?"

"Yes, ma'am," I said, and went over and hugged her. We were both blubbering, and Mr. C. and Bobbo looked a little misty.

We heard a car pull into the drive; it was the only thing that saved us all from a real crying spell.

Sheriff Foster came in with his notebook, and with Justis. He sank heavily into a chair and opened the notepad. "They're not there," he said. "He's packed his clothes and disappeared."

He closed his pad and turned to the Cunninghams. "I have no reason to suspect that Mary June went with Johnny voluntarily. I'm going to put it on the radio as a kidnapping," he said. "They'll be picked up by morning."

The problem was, they weren't picked up by morning. The police would have never found them. I wouldn't have either, if not for my little sister.

to be continued...

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On My Mind...

History In The Making

I am so proud of the transgendered community today. On October 2 and 3, 1995, over 100 transgendered activists gathered outside Washington, D.C., to collaborate on the first organized Congressional lobbying effort on behalf of the transgendered community. And, we have a gay/lesbian lobbying organization to thank for it.

A little bit of background is in order. During the 1995 legislative year, the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), a gay/lesbian lobbying group, managed to get a bill introduced into Congress called the Employment Non-Discrimination Act or ENDA. This bill was written specifically to protect anyone from being fired from their job because of their sexual orientation. However, as our community has learned through trial after trial, protection for sexual orientation does not mean protection for gender identification.

Karen Kerin, one of the cofounders of It's Time America, a transgender political organization, discovered ENDA and noted that it did not cover our community. Karen contacted Phyllis Frye of the International Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy (ICTLEP) and Riki Wilchins of Transsexual Menace and urged that something be done to rectify the



Over 100 transgendered activists in front of the Capitol

situation. The three of them set off for Capitol Hill to talk with ENDA sponsors and try to convince them to add transgendered as a protected class.

To a degree, they were successful in finding several Congressman who agreed to propose a transgender amendment to ENDA. However, shortly after their visit, they were informed that the HRCF opposed any transgender amendment to ENDA, and that HRCF had dissuaded the new sponsors from offering the amendment.

That was the turning point. Being spurned by a gay/lesbian organization was the catalyst that unleashed a backlash against

HRCF. Transsexual Menace and transgender activists picketed and leafleted HRCF fund raising events all over the country soliciting grassroots support.



(L. to R.) Alison Laing, Linda Watson, & JoAnn Roberts after a meeting with Chief Counsel for Sen. Orrin Hatch (UT).

Riki Wilchins proposed that the community do its own lobbying effort and thus was born the First Annual Transgender Lobbying Days. With the support of Phyllis and other activists like Sarah DePalma (TX), Jessica Xavier (MD), and Jane Fee (MN), transgendered people from over 30 states walked the Hill and talked with Congressional and Senate staffers about transgender concerns. We even held a press conference that was fairly well attended by the media. Unfortunately, the O.J. Simpson verdict stole the headlines of the day.

Nevertheless, we made an impact. Gloria Fredericks of Iowa Artistry had a face to face meeting with one of her state's Senators. He was extremely interested in hearing about our concerns; so interested that he kept a Russian delegation waiting for 10 minutes while he spoke with Gloria. He said he'd sign-on for an amended ENDA bill.

Phyllis, Sharon Stuart (NY), Alison Laing (PA), and myself (PA) were privileged to accompany Linda Watson (UT) to a meeting with the Chief Counsel for Utah Senator Orrin Hatch, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee. (ENDA is in four committees at this time. The Judiciary is one of them.) We were well-received and I believe we dispelled many myths about transgendered people while we were there.

One funny but sad story came from the folks who visited an Oklahoma representative's office. A staffer laughed at our delegates and said there were no transgendered people in Oklahoma! Hey, COTA, are you listening?

If you weren't on the Hill this year, you're excused. But next year there is no excuse not to have every state represented.

JoAnn Roberts

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